

of course, no scientific authority for that recent discoveries about the Oklahoma are fraudulent. Still, one learns. I have learned to note a great deal of concurrent critical scepticism in the world. For example, not everybody is of the authenticity of the Vinland which Yale has bought. It is perhaps unfortunate that it was bought by Yale when Yale bought a number of extremely interesting items from a Spanish collection. The collection turned out to have been in the library of Saragossa Cathedral and the Saragossa—and the chapter as a body—had no recollection of selling them. The theory that one of the canons had taken them on to a dealer, was widely accepted, and the firm refused to name the dealer. His name was in general circulation (New Haven) and, at any rate when I was in the breast of the controversy, was hanging

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 centre of the study on American history.
 Yale will not buy the recent
 discoveries from Oklahoma.

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I was at Cambridge with Kim, Maclean and Burgess in the early 'thirties, though I ran into none of them until later. The political atmosphere there was complicated. It was fashionable either to be, or claim to be, a communist.



But it was worse than this. From the middle of the war the Soviet government had felt, correctly, that their most dangerous enemies would eventually be the Americans. Philby and Blake were accordingly given the task of penetrating the American clandestine organisation too, and went to it with a will. Philby particularly disliked American capitalism and success. When Philby was accused in 1951 of being 'the third man,' by far his most determined attackers were the Central Intelligence Agency

two years in Washington. They were right, of course; but the 'old boy net' in Britain, which Philby had so grossly abused, saved him. So too, I think, on a semantic basis, did the term 'third man.' It seemed to imply partly that he was of less significance than the wellknown two, and partly that he was a jolly buccancer like Orson Welles in the film about Vienna in the end-of-war days.

You would think that as a result of these goings-on, confidence between the American and British sections of the Intelligence community must have been shattered. It was not. For one thing, the Americans, of course, had their troubles with their own traitors. Anyway, throughout the 'fifties a representative of the CIA continued to sit in on the deliberations of our Joint Intelligence Committee (I was chairman of the deputy director's section) and the privilege was reciprocated in Washington. In 1958 I went on a trip round the world, unique of its kind, sponsored by both the Foreign Office and our secret service, and magnificently laid on by both those bodies and also by the CIA representative everywhere. This culminated in a highpowered lunch given in my honour by Allen Dulles, then head of the CIA (absolutely my only complaint here was the choice of drink: milk, water or coffee). Philby's defection in 1963 was a further strain on SIS-CIA relations, though Allen Dulles has made it clear that it was no surprise to him. But these relations appear to hold up well enough even today.

For part of the time when Philby was in the doldrums from 1951 to 1955 Blake was in a prison camp in North Korea. After his return he started going great guns, and no doubt kept Philby informed of progress. After his savagely successful time in Berlin, from 1954 to 1959, Blake asked for a rest and was sent to 'Mecas' (Middle East Centre for Arabic Studies) in Shemlan, an agreeable village in the hills above Beirut. Philby was living in Beirut at the time, and working again in a small way for the SIS, as well as for the *Observer* and the *Economist*. Some reunion!

But not for long. In 1959 statements by various communist defectors pointed clearly to Blake's guilt. He was summoned home and grilled. The record sentence of forty-two years' imprisonment followed.

The interrogation of Blake was pursued, at a gentlemanly tempo, while he was in Wormwood Scrubs. At last he slipped up and incriminated Philby. Philby was confronted—by an old chum—in Lebanon and saw the game was up. As he was not in HMG's service officially he could not be summoned home; and our authorities had not the strength of mind to kidnap him. This was the 'innocent until proved guilty' syndrome with a vengeance. At a convenient moment a couple of months later he skipped to what he now calls 'home.'

His son's reports as a result of his recent visit to Moscow do not reveal much. In Beirut Philby had removed a great friend's wife, a goodlooking girl as I remember her. John Philby does not reveal that, true to his own comradely habits, Philby has now removed Melinda Maclean from her husband Donald, whom she had followed faithfully through so many tribulations. Also, while John Philby indicates that his father is treated with the respect due to a monumental traitor, he does not say what high position he now occupies in which he has served so loyally and for so long.

British and American society today are of a different order from those of the 'thirties, 'forties and 'fifties. It is true that the 'cold war' has taken a different turn. But the worldwide contest remains most vigorous and in some ways more dangerous than ever. And in the intelligence sphere, while there are master minds and active bodies like Philby and Blake at work in Moscow, we had better watch out. If they have not actually left some time bombs behind they are considering how to get them into position now.

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